Setting up of Medical Grants Commission

1570. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to set-up a Medical Grants Commission on the lines of the University Grants Commission to encourage research and to provide grants to the State for various health care programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): There was a proposal for establishment of Education Commission on Health Sciences on the line of University Grants Commission. However, in view of scarce resources, the proposal has been kept in abeyance.

Opening of Nursing Colleges

1571. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nursing Colleges opened in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttranchal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to open Nursing Colleges in these States during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations where these will be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) During the last three years Indian Nursing Council has given permission for opening of 5 Colleges of Nursing in the State of Madhya Pradesh and 2 in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The opening of Colleges of Nursing comes within the purview of the State Government.

Poor condition of Government Hospitals in Delhi

1572. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor condition of Government Hospitals functioning in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Improvement is a continuous process and Government is striving to improve the condition of the hospitals by augmenting infrastructural facilities, equipments and manpower etc. within the available resources.

Registration of Charitable Trusts

1573. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of charitable trusts (NGOs) which were registered during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): There is no scheme for registration of charitable trusts (NGOs) in this Ministry. However, the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy do fund NGOs for IEC Schemes and accredit Institutions/NGOs for Research Schemes.

Death of Kids due to Diseases

1574. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Ten million kids die each year from diseases", which appeared in the Statesman dated 11th June, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the number of kids died each year in the country due to diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the factors responsible for such deaths of kids in India; and

(e) the steps taken to check such deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item has come to Government's notice.

(b) to (e) As per the Sample Registration system the infant mortality rate for India in 1999 was estimated to be 70 per 1000 live births and child mortality rate in the age group 0—4 years was estimated to be 22.5 per 1000 children during 1998. At these rates it is estimated that about 2.4 million children